



Fishing Opportunities



Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit

There are seven primary lakes within or bordering Kettle Moraine State Forest--Northern Unit. These lakes, ranging in size from 427 acres (Long Lake) to less than seven acres, account for 786 acres. The major fish populations in these lakes include large-mouth bass, bluegill, crappies, and northern pike. Mauthe Lake and Long Lake Recreation Areas have handicap accessible fishing piers. Check at landings for posted information regarding wake/no wake rules and whether or not a state park vehicle admission sticker is required. All watercraft must be equipped with a wearable Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person on board

Long Lake

Long Lake is a 3-mile long impoundment of the East Branch of the Milwaukee River. This lake has relatively clear water, productive structure and is stocked by DNR and the Long Lake Fishing Club. Heavy recreational use in the summer may make fishing difficult.

Handicapped-accessible fishing pier and shoreline fishing opportunities within the Long Lake Recreation Area. Developed boat launch and parking for over 20 vehicles and trailers. Boat launch does fill on summer weekends. **State Forest vehicle admission sticker required to enter the recreation area.**

Local wake ordinance in effect -- posted at landing.

Use caution on ice, especially near inlet and outlet.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	6" - 7" common in summer, may reach up to 11" at times. Best fishing along mid-depth weedlines and in deeper water on vegetated mid-depth flats.
Crappies	Seldom active at mid-day; best time to fish is an hour after dark
Walleyes	Not a large population but many in the 17" - 19" range.
Northern Pike	A good population with larger pike found near vegetated drops.
Largemouth Bass	Common in summer. The lake has a very good population with a nice size structure of fish available. Anglers are encouraged to catch and release bass.
Bullheads	One of the most popular summer fish to catch, especially near boat launch area.

Kettle Moraine Lake

The second-largest lake in the Kettle Moraine area, Kettle Moraine Lake has relatively clear water. Many parts of the lake are weedy and shallow. There is not state forest access available on this lake, but the public can access at Frank's on the Lake Resort on the east side.

Kettle Moraine Lake (continued)

Local wake ordinance in effect -- posted at landing.

Use caution on ice around the lake's aeration system.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Although not large fish, bluegills are abundant.
Yellow Perch	Some present.
Crappies	Not abundant, but average size 7" - 8" and many reach up to 13.8".
Northern Pike	Large population for a lake this size. Commonly found in the 17" to 21" size range. The minimum size limit is currently 26 inches.
Bullheads	Bullhead fishing is the highlight of Kettle Moraine Lake in summer.

Crooked Lake

A medium-sized kettle lake. Relatively clear water and diverse aquatic plant community. No Forest Park vehicle admission sticker required for parking in lot.

Gravel access road, boat launch and parking area off of Hwy 55, suitable for canoes and small boats - launch is shallow and weedy.

Use caution during late ice when traffic can cause deterioration of shoreline ice.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Some nice size, many smaller.
Yellow Perch	Numerous small perch.
Crappies	Population fluctuates widely with very good fishing some years.
Northern Pike	Fair population, but not abundant.
Largemouth Bass	A small population of nice-sized fish - exercise catch and release.

Mauthe Lake

Mauthe Lake is a 78-acre impoundment of the East Branch of the Milwaukee River and is entirely within the State Forest Boundaries.

Mauthe Lake (continued)

Handicap-accessible fishing pier, trail to dam, and shoreline fishing opportunities within the recreation area. Paved launch for canoes and small boats. No gas motors allowed. **State Forest vehicle admission sticker required to enter the Mauthe Lake Recreation Area.**

Use caution on ice at inlet and outlet.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Many smaller fish, some larger.
Crappies	Occasionally the highlight of the fishery.
Largemouth Bass	Mauthe Lake is a very good bass lake.
Northern Pike	Although not a large lake, some pike in the 30" range are caught every season.
Walleyes	Occasionally caught.

Auburn Lake

Another medium-sized kettle lake, Auburn Lake provides a diverse fishery. Paved boat launch and trailer parking area across from Forest Headquarters entrance. Access to launch is a narrow gravel road not suitable for large boat trailers. **State Forest vehicle admission sticker required to park in lot or use boat launch.**

Local wake ordinance in effect -- posted at landing.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Most small, some larger.
Crappies	Present, but generally not quality size.
Northern Pike	Often found near outlet stream mouth and on north end across from boat landing.
Yellow Bass	Fish are stunted, but abundant.
Walleyes	Occasionally caught.

Lake Seven

A small, mostly undeveloped kettle lake. Clear water and a diverse aquatic plant community. Known historically as a tremendous bluegill lake. No gas motors allowed. Gravel boat launch for canoes and small rowboats. Launch site fairly shallow. No State Park vehicle admission required to park in lot.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Although increased predation has decreased the population, larger average size. Some reported up to 12".
Crappies	A few present.
Largemouth Bass	Very abundant, but small average size.

Forest Lake

Forest Lake is a small kettle lake with a mostly-developed shoreline. There is a walk-in public access off of Hwy GGG, which is marked and fairly steep. The lake is suitable only for canoes, small rowboats or paddle boats. No motors are allowed. Large game fish, such as northern pike, walleyes, and bass are catch and release only. No State Park vehicle admission sticker is required to park in lot.

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Good numbers of smaller bluegills.
Sunfish	Good numbers of smaller sunfish.
Crappies	
Northern Pike	Larger, catch and release only.
Walleyes	Some, catch and release only.
Largemouth Bass	Good population, catch and release only.



Butler Lake

Butler Lake is the smallest of the easily-accessible Kettle Moraine Lakes. It is a kettle lake with an emergent wetland fringe around most of the lake. The Ice Age Trail meanders through the Butler Lake area and there is a loop hiking trail system near the lake. Butler Lake is spring-fed and the water remains fairly cold and oxygenated.

There is a paved parking lot and gravel launch area for canoes or small rowboats. A water pump is available near the parking lot. **State Park vehicle admission stickers are required in this lot and are available at the Long Lake Recreation Area entrance ½ mile west of Butler Lake.**

Expect to catch . . .

Bluegills	Small, but abundant.
Yellow Perch	Small, but abundant.
Northern Pike	
Largemouth Bass	

Revised 10/01

